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SOURCE

1. [redacted] a lieutenant was responsible for the political indoctrination of troops at company level, a lieutenant colonel, major or captain was in charge of this office at battalion level, and a lieutenant colonel, major or captain also performed this function at divisional level. The battalion and division political indoctrination officers were both called the deputy commanders for political indoctrination, and each had a special office of his own with a clerk (sergeant)
2. Political indoctrination meetings were conducted twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 0900 to 1100 hours. Each meeting lasted two hours. The lecturer usually spoke on propaganda subjects, such as the necessity for a larger Komsomol membership, the history of the Communist Party, and general adverse information about foreign countries. These lectures were followed by a more informal period of discussion and questioning.
3. In general, the attitude of the soldiers toward political indoctrination was one of indifference. The two-hour lecture period was considered a good time to sleep. It was quite common for soldiers, when asked what the lecture was about, to be totally unprepared to answer because they had slept of the two hours.
4. I do not know of any changes in the Communist Party orientation of propaganda during the time I attended these lectures. [redacted] And I do not believe that soldiers, or even non-commissioned officers, could judge this matter.

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25X1A

-2-

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5. In the library of the [redacted] [redacted] were many good books for the army personnel to read. It was there that I read Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, War and Peace and some of his short stories. I also read Quietly Flows the Don and The White Birch at this library. Newspapers were available, and I looked daily through Pravda, Ivestiya, and the Soviet Armed Forces Newspaper published in Germany, Sovetskaya Armiya. This latter newspaper contained war news about Korea, but as the news from Korea seemed to be the same every day, the soldiers became tired of this subject and eventually ignored it. All books and newspapers in the library were readily available to all personnel, irrespective of rank. All that a soldier had to do to obtain a book was to sign a slip and return the book after a certain length of time. The enlisted men, however, did not read too much. In fact, very few soldiers read at all, either because they were not able to read easily or were too tired.
6. Soviet soldiers were not allowed to have radios, but they could hear news from the Soviet Union on the public megaphone and listened to it eagerly. Soldiers knew about the VOA and BBC broadcasts by word of mouth. Information concerning these two networks was fairly widespread. In fact, during 1947 and 1948, many people in Moscow learned English by listening to BBC English language lessons, even though listening to these broadcasts was strictly forbidden. I believe that VOA and BBC broadcasts would be effective if the soldiers could hear them often, because the Soviet people are eager to learn about life and conditions in Western countries.
7. The majority of films shown to servicemen were Soviet made. But US films in English, French films in French, and German films in Russian were also shown. I saw about five US films during 1950-51. No love films are ever shown to the Soviet Armed Forces because that would not be decent. (The love scenes I have seen in films [redacted] make me blush.) Soviet soldiers especially like wild west films, and adventure films like "The Count of Monte Cristo", the sound tracks of which had been translated into Russian. I also saw "The Little Foxes" with an English sound track. Films were shown two or three times a week, usually from 2000 to 2200 hours. In summer time they were shown outdoors. Soviet films are technically superior to foreign films.
8. I saw few indications of low morale in the military units in which I served. Dissatisfaction, if any, was due to close confinement and monotony.

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